

## Message Text

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44

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AGR-05 AID-05 EB-07 IO-10 RSC-01

COME-00 TRSE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07

L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

NIC-01 ACDA-05 /096 W

----- 078795

R 291050Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9050

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

C O N F I D E N T I A L NDJAMENA 0206

ROME FOR FODAG

E O 111652: GDS

TAGS: EAID, PFOR, CD, UR

SUBJ: LONG HERALDED SOVIET TRANSPORT BEGINS GRAIN AIRLIFT IN  
CHAD

REF: NDJAMENA 172

1. SUMMARY: SOVIET ANTONOV 12 AIRCRAFT ARRIVED IN CHAD IN  
EARLY JANUARY TO BEGIN AIRLIFT OPERATIONS NEARLY SIX MONTHS  
AFTER SOVIETS HAD ORIGINALLY OFFERED AIRCRAFT TO GOC. DELAY  
IS ATTRIBUTED TO VARIETY MECHANICAL AND TACTICAL CONSIDERATIONS,  
INCLUDING LAST FALL'S AMERICAN AIRLIFT AND ITS TERMINATION.  
ALSO IMPORTANT TO THE DELAY, HOWEVER, HAS BEEN GOC FOOTDRAGGING  
AND GENERAL RELUCTANCE ACCEPT SOVIET AIRCRAFT, RELUCTANCE  
PRESUMABLY OVERCOME BY PERSISTENT SOVIET INSISTENCE AND PERENNIAL  
DIFFICULTIES SUPPLYING NORTHERN CHAD. END SUMMARY.

2. SOVIET ANTONOV 12 AIRCRAFT ARRIVED NDJAMENA EARLY JANUARY  
TO BEGIN AIRLIFT GRAIN TO AREAS EAST CENTRAL AND NORTHERN CHAD.

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AIRCRAFT ARRIVAL APPARENTLY COINCIDED WITH LONG-AWAITED ARRIVAL  
OF SECOND TRANCHE OF 2,000 METRIC TONS RICE PROMISED CHAD FIRST

HALF LAST YEAR, ALTHOUGH SIZABLE PORTION THIS GIFT MAY BE EXPECTED TO BE CONSUMED IN AREA NDJAMENA. CEREMONY WAS HELD JANUARY 23 TO MARK ARRIVAL GRAIN AND AIRCRAFT, WITH APPROPRIATE BRIEF REMARKS BY SOVIET AMBASSADOR AND GOC DROUGHT COORDINATOR DJONOUA.

3. DJONOUA HAD MADE REQUEST OF DONORS FOR AIRLIFT ASSISTANCE LAST JULY 30, AND RECEIVED POSITIVE RESPONSES FROM USG AND USSR. LATTER PROMISED ONE OR TWO ANTONOV 12 AIRCRAFT BY FIRST OF SEPT. IN VIEW ABSENCE STOCKS NDJAMENA, REQUIRING GRAIN TO BE AIRLIFTED FROM MAIDUGURI, REFUSAL AT THAT TIME OF SOVIETS TO FLY TO ANY NORTHERN AIRPORT WITH EXCEPTION FAYA LARGEAU AND RELUCTANCE SOVIETS TRANSPORT NON-SOVIET SUPPLIES, DJONOUA REQUESTED THAT ARRIVAL ANTONOV BE POSTPONED TO OCTOBER. BY THAT TIME USAF AIRLIFT IN FULL OPERATION, AND DJONOUA REQUESTED SUBSEQUENT POSTPONEMENTS FIRST TO NOVEMBER AND THEN TO DECEMBER. ACCORDING TO USUALLY RELIABLE SOURCES, GOC ALSO RELUCTANT, AFTER ABRUPT TERMINATION USAF AIRLIFT, TO RECEIVE SOVIET AIRCRAFT SO AS NOT UNNECESSARILY OFFEND USG.

4. WE HYPOTHEZIZE THAT BY DECEMBER GOC EFFORTS STOCKPILE GRAIN IN NORTHERN CHAD AGAINST TRADITIONAL LATE SPRING AND SUMMER RAINY SEASONS SHORTAGES HAD NOT BEEN SUCCESSFUL DUE LACK VEHICLES, FUELS, FINANCS, AND, PRINCIPALLY, ORGANIZATION, AND THAT THIS HAD INCREASED ATTRACTIVENESS SOVIET OFFER. THAT GOC CONSIDERS SITUATION SOME AREAS IN NORTH TO BE POTENTIALLY SERIOUS SEEMS DEMONSTRATED BY AIRLIFT EIGHT TONS SUPPLIES LAST WEEK BY FRENCH TRANSALL AIRCRAFT TO FADA, AS WELL AS COMMENTS DJONOUA MADE TO US AMBASSADOR IN JAN. (REFTEL) NONETHELESS, SOVIET APPARENTLY STILL HAVING SOME PROBLEMS IN FINDING ACCEPTABLE CARGO FOR ACCEPTABLE DESITNATIONS, AS SOVIET AMBASSADOR APPROACHED LOCAL UN REPRESENTATIVE LAST WEEK WITH OFFER TO TRANSPORT UN CARGOES EITHER INTERNALLY OR FROM CAMEROONS. LOCAL SPECULATION THAT SOVIETS USING ANTONOV 12 FAMILIARIZE AEROFLOT PILOTS WITH NDJAMENA AIRPORT AS PART OF SCHEDULED SERVICE WHICH BEGAN END DECEMBER, AS WELL AS POSSIBLE INTELLIGENCE COLLECTION, MAY WELL ACCOUNT FOR PERSISTENT SOVIET INTEREST IN PROVIDING ANTONOV 12.

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** FOOD ASSISTANCE, MILITARY AIRLIFTS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 29 JAN 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975NDJAME00206  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION AF  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 75 NDJAMENA 172  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 19 MAY 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <19 MAY 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <20 MAY 2003 by GolinoFR>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
05 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** LONG HERALDED SOVIET TRANSPORT BEGINS GRAIN AIRLIFT IN CHAD  
**TAGS:** EAID, PFOR, CD, UR  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006